
HARRISON WAGNER.

MARCH 14, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRISTOW, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany S. 6880.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 6880) for the relief of Harrison Wagner, have carefully considered the same, and have to report the same adversely.

This claimant asks reimbursement in the sum of \$45,600 for the alleged destruction of a stock of chemical preparations by confederate soldiers in the year 1863. No evidence of such destruction of property is furnished beyond the claimant's own affidavit.

House Report No. 682, Sixty-first Congress, second session, a copy of which is hereto appended, is adopted and made part of this report.

[House Report No. 682, Sixty-first Congress, second session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 17802) for the relief of Harrison Wagner, submit the following report:

An adverse report on this case was made by the Committee on War Claims of the Fifty-first Congress, on March 8, 1898. The facts are set forth in that report, which is adopted and made part of this report, a copy being hereto appended.

Your committee report adversely to the bill and recommend that it do lie upon the table.

[House Report No. 740, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5693) for the relief of Harrison Wagner, report as follows:

The claimant alleges a claim against the Government of the United States for losses sustained while he was performing important service for the Government in the year 1863. Claim stated at \$45,600.

The following is the petitioner's statement of his case:

"I do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct list of the property destroyed for me by the rebel aiders and abettors, in Woodsborough, Frederick County, Md., for my saving the battle of Gettysburgh from being lost to the Government and the Union, by my having the rebel spy arrested in Woodsborough,

Md., in 1863, during the Gettysburgh campaign of the war of the rebellion, in July, 1863:

"Chemical preparation for horses, cows, hogs, and sheep, 300 gross, which I sold at \$1 a pack and at \$120 per gross, \$36,000; hair tonic, 100 gross, which I sold at 50 cents a bottle and at \$48 per gross; amount, \$4,800.

"Elixir of castor oil, 100 gross, which I sold at 35 cents a bottle and at \$24 per gross; amount, \$2,400.

"Chemical prepared thoidace, 50 gross, which I sold at 35 cents a bottle and at \$24 per gross; amount, \$1,200.

"Chemical preparation, liniment, Tereben, 50 gross, which I sold at 35 cents a bottle and at \$24 per gross, \$1,200.

"Real estate worth from \$10,000 to \$12,000 which I deeded for \$1,500 to save myself and get away.

"My whole loss in medicines destroyed for saving the battle of Gettysburg, by having the rebel spy arrested as stated, was \$45,600. I also lost greatly in the plans, schemes, and devices of the rebel aiders and abettors to injure me in every conceivable way.

"HARRISON WAGNER."

Bills of this class are easy to be made, and, if passed upon the evidence of the claimant alone, upon all the material facts, will prove a Pandora's box. The difficulty the claimant seems to have met with was the barrenness of his facts. The claimant in his petition states that it was through his aid and assistance that the battle of Gettysburg was gained and the backbone of the rebellion was broken. This statement may do well for war books and pamphlets, but when they are to be weighed as evidence they are of little worth.

In view of the facts connected with this case, the committee can not find warrant for appropriating any money to this claimant; and therefore report adversely to the bill and recommend it be laid upon the table.

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